

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16874

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TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION: EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: A) ROME 16321; B) ROME 16677

1. THE EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED THE FULL TEXT OF A TELEGRAM
SENT NOVEMBER 7 BY THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

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AFFAIRS TO OTHER MEMBER-STATES OF THE EC NINE. DRAFTED

AND SENT IN THE ITALIAN CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF EC, THE CABLE DEALS WITH THE CONVERSATIONS IN CAIRO NOVEMBER 5 AND 6 (REPORTED REF. A) BETWEEN THE PRESIDENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ARAB LEAGUE CONCERNING NEXT STEPS IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

2. THE FULL TEXT IS QUOTED BELOW, NOT ONLY AS OF POSSIBLE USE TO EMBASSY ABU DHABI, BUT ALSO SINCE IT AUTHORITATIVELY REFLECTS THE TONE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN AND ARAB SIDES IN THE DIALOGUE. IN PARTICULAR IT CONFIRMS WHAT WE HAVE EARLIER BEEN TOLD CONCERNING EUROPEAN RESISTANCE TO POLITICIZATION (PLO, GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING) OF THE DIALOGUE.

3. BEGIN TEXT. EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE-MISSION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ARAB LEAGUE AT CAIRO (5-6 NOVEMBER).

3A. THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION HAD TWO CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, MR. MAHMOUD RIAD AND HIS PRINCIPAL AIDES, ON NOVEMBER 5 AND 6. THE AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO OF THE UNION OF ARAB EMIRATES TOOK PART IN THE FIRST OF THESE CONVERSATIONS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ARAB LEAGUE.

3.B. THE MAJOR LINES TO BE FOLLOWED AT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS' OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE FROM 22 TO 27 NOVEMBER, AS WELL AS THE PROBLEM OF CONVENING THE GENERAL COMMISSION, WERE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY DURING THE COURSE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE PERMITTING A FRANK AND CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

3C. CONCERNING THE MEETING AT ABU DHABI, MR. RIAD UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR PROGRESS IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING CONCRETE COOPERATIVE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUATION OF THE MEETINGS OF EXPERTS' (WHICH HE CONSIDERS) AS INVESTED WITH FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE AT THIS POINT FOR THE PURSUIT OF THE DIALOGUE. IN THIS CONTEXT THE SECRETARY GENERAL EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH TECHNICAL SUB-GROUPS CHARGED WITH FINALIZING PROPOSALS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF PRIORITY INTEREST, WHICH WOULD BE CHOSEN DURING THE ABU DHABI SESSION AND ELABORATED IN PREPARATION FOR

THE FOLLOWING EURO-ARAB MEETING.

3C. CONCERNING CONVOCAION OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION, MR. RIAD APPROACHED THE SUBJECT BY STRESSING THAT IT WAS NECESSARY EVEN NOW TO THINK OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIALOUGE AFTER THE ABU DHABI MEETING. IN THIS SPIRIT HE ENVISAGED ONE OR SEVERAL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION, AS THE ORGAN CHARGED WITH THE PREPARATION OF DECISIONS CONCERNING EURO-ARAB COOPERATION TO SUBMIT AT THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO A CONFERENCE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ALONG THE LINES ORIGINALLY FORESEEN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIALOGUE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE RENEWED THE REQUEST THAT THE PLO SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION WITH THE STATUS OF OBSERVER.

3D. THE EUROPEAN PRESIDENCY CONFIRMED THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF THE NINE CONCERNING A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION AS HD BEEN AGREED AT THE TWO EURO-ARAB MEETINGS AT CAIRO AND ROME, MAKING IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THERE SHOULD BE INVOKED REGARDING THE GENERAL COMMISSION, THE FORMULA WHICH ENVISAGES TWO DELEGATIONS--ONE EUROPEAN, THE OTHER ARAB-- USED HERETOFORE AT THE MEETING OF EXPERTS. THE ADVANTAGES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN TWO INTEGRATED DELEGATIONS WERE EMPHASIZED BY THE EUROPEAN SIDE WHICH, MOREOVER, ALSO MENTIONED THE IMPOSSIBILITY FOR THE NINE COLLECTIVELY TO ACCEPT AT THIS STAGE THEPRESENCE OF THE PLO AS SUCH IN THE GENERAL COMMISSION. SHOULD SUCH A FORMULA BE ACCEPTED BY THE ARAB SIDE, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION OF THE WORK OF THE EXPERTS.

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3E. MR. RIAD HOWEVER, BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO SUBMIT SUCH A SUGGESTION TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ARAB LEAGUE BEFORE THE MEETING OF EXPERTS AT ABU DHABI IN ORDER TO AVOID ALL RISK OF COMPLICATING A MEETING, WHOSE SUCCESS HE WANTED TO ASSURE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS ALSO UNDERLINED THAT THE MODALITIES FOR CONVOKING THE GERNAL CMMISSION WOULDDEMAND IN ANY CASE A FORMAL DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS PRONOUNCED ITSELF CONCERNING ONLY EXPERTS' MEETING. HE REMARKED THAT ON THE ARAB SIDE IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT IN THE GENERAL COMMISSION THAT THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE DIALOGUE WOULD BE REPRESENTED INDIVIDUALLY. HE INQUIRED ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF APPLYING TO THE GENERAL COMMISSION THE FORMULA OF A MEETING, WITH ONE

EUROPEAN DELEGATION AND ONE ARAB DELEGATION. FOR THE FUTURE IN REGARD TO A CONFERENCE AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3F. HAVING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE RISKS TO WHICH MR. RIAD ALLUDED, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING CONVOCAION OF THE GENERAL COMMISSION WOULD BE THE OBJECT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND ARAB PRESIDENCIES AFTER THE ABU DHABI MEETING.

3.G. AS TO THE SCENARIO FOR THE MEETING OF EXPERTS' AT ABU DHABI, THE FOLLOWING WAS AGREED WITH THE PRINCIPAL AIDES TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE:

(1) THE MORNING OF 22 NOVEMBER WILL BE DEDICATED TO INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENCIES OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS AND, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, TO INTERNAL COORDINATING MEETINGS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS TO MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF EACH WORKING GROUP;

(2) THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 22 WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE MEETING. GIVEN THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING THIS INAUGURAL CEREMONY HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT THEM OFF UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING;

(3) THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 23 WILL BE DEDICATED TO MEETINGS OF INTERNAL COORDINATION;
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(4) THE JOINT MEETINGS OF WORKING GROUPS COULD TAKE PLACE AFTER THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 23 THROUGH NOVEMBER 25.

(5) A FINAL PLENARY MEETING IS FORESEEN FOR THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 25.

(6) A TOURISTIC EXCURSION IS FORESEEN FOR NOVEMBER 26 (WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY ON THAT DAY ON ACCOUNT OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE HOST COUNTRY WHICH TAKES PLACE SOME DAYS LATER). THE 26TH WILL EQUALLY BE DEVOTED TO THE FINALIZATION OF THE TEXTS IN VIEW OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE NEXT DAY.

(7) THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 27 WILL BE DEDICATED TO A FORMAL CLOSING CEREMONY. (THIS COULD NOT BE ADVANCED BECAUSE OF ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY MADE BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT THAT SHOULD NOT BE DISREGARDED.
END TEXT. BEAUDRY

CO

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